scheme of self employment launched by the Government recently; and

(b) the number of persons granted loans under this scheme as on 31st December, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) started from September, 1986 for providing self employment opportunities to the urban poor. Reserve Bank of India has reported that the complete data has not been received in respect of all centres so far. As per the provisional information from Reserve Bank of India in respect of 18 States|Union Territories, 4 83 lakh applications were received under the Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP). Out of these 1.30 lakh cases were sanctioned and disbursement of Rs. 32.18 crores was also made in 1.10 lakh applications. The State-wise progress of the loans sanctioned during the year 1986-87 will be known only after the end of the current financial year.

Rise in consumer price index

1135. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumer price index has gone up by 8.9 per cent as against 5 per cent in the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Consumer Price index for Industrial workers rose by 8.9 per cent in 1985-86 (March over March) as against 5.0 per cent in 1984-85;

(b) The higher increase in the Consumer Price Index during 1985-86 was due to a faster rate of increase in prices of certain items like pulses (Gram & Moong) fruits and vegetables, tea, condiments and spices, eggs fish and meat, some articles of personal care and housing.

(c) The thrust of Government's anti-inflationary policy continues to be on effective demand and supply management including strengthening of public distribution system regulated releases of sugar and edible oils and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system. The Central Government has advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketing.

New 20-Point Programme

1136. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items in the new 20-Point Programme announced in 1986; and

(b) what are the details of measures taken for the effective implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The 20-Point Programme—1986 has already been placed on the Table of the House on 20-8-1986 by the Minister for Programme Implementation and contains all the items included in this Programme.

(b) The implementation of the 20-Point Programme—1986 will be under-